

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2208

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2577

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TU CY US

SUBJECT: US ACTION REGARDING TURKISH POSITION ON CYPRUS

REF: A. ANKARA 6412

B. NICOSIA 2309

1. I FULLY SUPPORT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER'S VIEWS THAT A STRONG EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE WITH GOT TO INFLUENCE IT TO PRODUCE PROGRESS AT THE SEPTEMBER 8-9 CLERIDES-DENKTASH MEETINGS IN NEW YORK. IN ADDITION TO NEED FOR A FAVORABLE INFLUENCE ON NEXT HOUSE VOTE ON ARMS EMBARGO, I AM INCREASINGLY CONCERNED REGARDING THE AFFECT ON CLERIDES' POSITION ON CYPRUS IF NEW YORK DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CLEAR STEP FORWARD, I. E. TURKISH WILLINGNESS FULFILL VIENNA III COMMITMENT TO DISCUSS TERRITORY.

2. WITH STRONG BACKING FROM KARAMANLIS, CLERIDES HAS PUT HIS POLITICAL PRESTIGE AND FORTUNES ON THE LINE IN SAYING THAT WHAT HE DID IN VIENNA (ACCEPTANCE OF BIZONALITY, A WEAK CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND NORTHWARD MOVEMENT
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OF REMAINING TURKS) WAS RIGHT AND THAT DENKTASH WILL RE-

CIPROCAT BY PRESENTING SIGNIFICANT TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL IN NEW YORK. CLERIDES' ASSERTIVE REALISM HAS CREATED A FEELING OF GREATER HOPEFULNESS AMONG GREEK CYPRIOTS THAN HAS BEEN PRESENT OVER PAST YEAR AND HAS WON SUPPORT FOR A QUICK SOLUTION WHICH EVEN IF DISTASTEFUL IN MANY RESPECTS WILL CUT GREEK LOSSES. AS NOTED REF B, HOWEVER, RADICAL SOCIALIST LEADER LYSSARIDES AND OTHER HAVE SAVAGELY ATTACKED HIM FOR TREACHERY ARGUING THAT HE LET HIMSELF BE DECEIVED AND THAT NEW YORK WILL NOT PRODUCE PROMISED RESULTS.

3. MY FEAR IS THAT IF TURKS LET CLERIDES DOWN HE WILL BE VERY BADLY HURT POLITICALLY AND PENDULUM OF PUBLIC OPINION WILL SWING TOWARD LYSSARIDES AND AGAINST A SOLUTION. PUT IN ANOTHER WAY, IN PURELY CYPRIOT TERMS (BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH) THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE OPPORTUNE TIME FOR A BREAKTHROUGH. IF GOT IS WILLING TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY, IT WILL BE SUPPORTING CLERIDES AND IN TURN VASTLY INCREASING CHANCES OF GETTING THE GREEKS TO SIGN ON TO THE KIND OF SOLUTION IT WANTS.
CRAWFORD

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